

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-15, 17, 19 and 20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 15, 17, 19 and 20 are amended, and claims 7 and 16 are cancelled. The claims are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference, and to place the claims in condition for allowance. In particular, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the features of objected-to claims 7 and 16. The other amended claims are amended in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

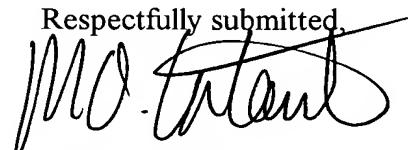
This Amendment should be entered after final rejection because, as noted above, it places this application in condition for allowance by incorporating the features of objected-to claims into their corresponding independent claims and amends other claims in view of the amendments to the independent claims. Thus, no new issues are raised.

Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 7-9, 16 and 17. As noted above, the features of claims 7 and 16 have been placed into their corresponding independent claims 1 and 11. Claims 6, 8, 15 and 17 have been amended in view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 11. In addition, formerly independent claims 19 and 20 have been rewritten in dependent form so as to depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 11.

Claims 1-6, 11-15, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-2001-47890. This rejection is moot in view of the above amendments.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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